

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

L-03 H-02 EUR-12 AID-05 SCCT-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/070 W

----- 063303

O 251825Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8308

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BUKAVU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1694

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH AND HUNTER)

SUBJECT: THREE KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

1. BARBARA SMUTS ARRIVED DAR ES SALAAM FROM KIGOMA, WAS MET BY MYSELF AND REPRESENTATIVES TANZANIAN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, FONOFF AND POLICE, AND CAME DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY FOR MEETING WITH ME, EMBOFFS, BERNARD MUGANDA OF FONOFF, AND MOHAMED ISSA AND LINTON MATELEMA BARUTI FO PRESIDENT NYERERE'S OFFICE.

2. I READ LETTER (DAR ES SALAAM 1693) WHICH FOUR CAPTIVE STUDENTS HAD COMPOSED, TRANSMITTING DEMANDS OF THEIR CAPTORS, WHO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS THE PARTI DE LA REVOLUTION POPULAIRE (PRP) OF LAURENT KABILA. WE GAVE TANZANIANS COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND OF TWO OTHER PROPAGANDA DOCUMENTS (REPORTED SEPTTEL) WHICH CAPTORS HAD SENT ALONG WITH SMUTS.

3. SMUTS DESCRIBED EXPERIENCES AS FOLLOWS: AFTER THEIR CAPTURE, STUDENTS WERE TAKEN MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY ACROSS LAKE (A SEVEN-HOUR TRIP) TO ZAIRIAN SIDE. RAIDERS' MOTOR BOAT  
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USED NO LIGHTS; TOWED GOMBE STATION BOAT BEHIND IT. THERE WERE

26 IN RAIDERS GROUP. ON ARRIVAL CAPTIVES WERE MARCHED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR UP A STEEP SLOPE TO A P.R.P. CAMP ON THE TOP OF THE CREST (LIGHTS OF KIGOMA COULD BE SEEN ACROSS THE LAKE). SMUTS DESCRIBES CAMP AS HAVING 75-150 OR MORE SOLDIERS, MOSTLY WEARING KHAKI UNIFORMS (OF VARYING SORTS) AND PULL-ON RUBBER BOOTS. THERE ALSO WOMEN AND CHILDREN PRESENT, AND SOME AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION. SOLDIERS SPOKE SWAHILI TO EACH OTHER AND FRENCH TO CAPTIVES. CAPTIVES WERE AT NO TIME BLINDFOLDED, AND INDEED ONE OF THEM MANAGED TO TAKE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS WITH CAMERA HE HAD WITH HIM AND WHICH SMUTS BROUGHT BACK WITH HER (WE WILL DEVELOP FILM). MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF PHYSICAL LOCALE AND DESCRIPTIONS OF CAPTORS WILL BE SENT SEPARATE MESSAGE.

4. SPOKESMAN FOR CAPTORS IDENTIFIED CAMP AS BEING IN TERRITORY LIBERATED BY PRP, WHICH WAS FIGHTING AGAINST MOBUTO REGIME. THEY ACCUSED TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE OF SUPPORTING MOBUTU, AND THEREFORE OF BEING THEIR ENEMY. PUBLICITY ABOUT THEIR GROWING VICTORIES HAD BEEN SUPPRESSED BY MOBUTU AND BY NYERERE, AND THEY WANTED THE WORLD TO KNOW THEY WERE WINNING.

5. ON THURSDAY (MAY 22) CAPTORS DESIGNATED SMUTS TO CARRY MESSAGES BACK, BUT POSTPONED DEPARTURE ALLEGING THAT ESCORT WAS ILL. THIS WAS REPEATED ON FRIDAY. ON SATURDAY NOON THEY HEARD TANZANIAN RADIO APPEAL, AND SMUTS WAS SENT BACK ACROSS LAKE. IN ADDITION TO THE LETTER CONTAINING DEMANDS SHE WAS GIVEN THREE SEALED LETTERS FOR PRESIDENT NYERERE, AND WAS TOLD TO SPEAK TO NYERERE PERSONALLY. CAPTORS IMPLIED THAT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, ETC., WERE CONTAINED IN LETTERS TO NYERERE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD RELEASE JEAN MAKIMBA AND CLAUDE MALUMBA AND THAT ONE OF THEM SHOULD GO TO ZAIRE TO THE PRP CAMP FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE STUDENTS WERE WARNED THAT THEY WOULD BE IN DANGER UNLESS ALL PRP DEMANDS CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER, AND ALSO THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO ATTACK THE CAMP TO RESCUE THEM WOULD LEAD TO THEIR DEATH.

6. SMUTS WAS ROWED ACROSS THE LAKE, DEPARTING EVENING MAY 24, BY SIX INDIVIDUALS IN A FISHING BOAT. TRIP TOOK 15 HOURS. SHE WAS RELEASED NORTH OF KIGOMA AND WALKED INTO TOWN.

7. SMUTS GAVE THREE LETTERS ADDRESSED TO NYERERE TO TANGOV  
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OFFICIALS PRESENT. DURING MEETING WORD CAME THROUGH THAT NYERERE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HER. IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD TAKE HER TO CALL ON MWALIMU ON MAY 26, PROBABLY IN MORNING. SMUTS ALSO HAD LETTERS FROM DUTCH AMBASSADOR AND FOR CAPTURED STUDENTS' FAMILIES. (WE HAVE DELIVERED LETTERS TO DUTCH; THEY WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE WE RECEIVED.)

8. WE AGREED WITH TANGOV OFFICIALS THAT TANZANIANS WILL

ISSUE OFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT (1) SMUTS BACK SAFE AND SOUND;  
(2) OTHER CAPTIVES, AS OF MAY 24, WERE ALSO WELL; (3) SMUTS  
CARRYING MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT NYERERE. WE WILL REFUSE ANY  
FURTHER COMMENT AT THIS TIME, ON GROUNDS OF NEED TO PROTECT  
THE REMAINING CAPTIVES. (SINCE CAPTORS APPARENTLY MONITORING  
RADIO TANZANIA, WE HOPE THAT REFERENCE TO MESSAGE WILL REASSURE  
THEM THAT SMUTS FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS SHE WAS GIVEN.)

9. SMUTS IS STAYING AT MY RESIDENCE FOR TIME BEING. BEFORE  
GOING THERE FROM EMBASSY SHE SPOKE TO HER PARENTS BY TELEPHONE  
(WE HAD BOOKED CALL IN ADVANCE).

10. COMMENT: APPARENT THAT TANGOV IS TO BE PRINCIPAL CONTACT FOR  
REBEL BAND RATHER THAN EITHER AMBASSADOR HINTON OR MYSELF AS REPORTED  
IN DAR ES SALAAM 1691. UNLESS ADVISED TO CONTRARY, INTEND TO PERMIT  
TANGOV TO BE PRINCIPAL CONTACT. NEEDLESS TO ADD WE ALSO INTEND TO  
CONTINUE TO STAY VERY CLOSE TO TANGOV UNTIL THIS MATTER CONCLUDED.  
CARTER

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## Message Attributes

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